

progress—in the form of these minute organisms we may go further, and imagine that if these conditions exist, this incarnation may be in progress now around us.

Let us now attempt to survey and catalogue the most prominent of the characteristics that mark the action of Life as manifested to our senses, limiting our view, in the first place, to characteristics which are noticeable throughout the whole of the animal kingdom, and, it may perhaps be held, throughout the whole of the vegetable kingdom also.

Instincts.—All living things are actuated by impulses, and are guided by directions, which may be conveniently styled "instincts."^{3*} if we use the term in a broader sense than is usually attached to it. Some of them may be classed as vaguely impulsive : these are illustrated by the instincts of self-preservation and of reproduction. Others give definite directions as to complicated methods of behaviour. Directive instincts of this class that particularly interest us are such skilful contrivances as those by which birds build their nests, bees work up their combs, or caterpillars encase themselves in their cocoons. But these illustrate only one of many kinds of instinctive action. A caterpillar is the young of a butterfly in its embryonic stage : it differs from the young of a mammal, growing within the womb of its

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mother. in that during its embrvonic
life it is cast
adrift to fend for itself: the
construction of its
cocoon is part and parcel of its
embrvonic growth.
and. if we stvle this instinctive. we
must also
recognise as instinctive the power
which enables
it to develop from a germ into a
caterpillar, and